

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1538**

Introduced by

Representatives Hoverson, Johnston, K. Koppelman, Paulson, Simons

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the freedom to teach students the strengths and weaknesses of  
3 scientific theories and controversies.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Freedom to teach strengths and weaknesses of scientific theories and controversies.**

8 The state board of public school education, superintendent of public instruction, board of a  
9 school district, each public school, administrators, teachers, and ancillary staff:

- 10 1. May encourage students to explore scientific questions, learn about scientific  
11 evidence, and develop critical thinking skills regarding controversial issues;
- 12 2. May help students understand, analyze, critique, and review the scientific strengths  
13 and weaknesses of existing scientific theories and controversies; and
- 14 3. May not prohibit teachers from helping students understand, analyze, critique, and  
15 review the scientific strengths and weaknesses of existing scientific theories and  
16 controversies.